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## South Florida Water Management District

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### **BIG CYPRESS BASIN BOARD MINUTES**

April 28, 2016

9:00 AM

Collier County Government Center  
Commission Chamber, 3rd Flr  
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, FL 34112

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Barber	Chair	Present	
Marielle Kitchener	Vice Chair	Present	
David Farmer		Present	
Ralph H. Haskins		Present	
John Vaughn		Present	
David Weston		Present	

**1. Call to Order - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board**

Mr. Barber called the meeting to order at 09:00.

**2. Invocation**

Rabbi Miller led the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance - Frederick Barber, Chairman, Big Cypress Basin Board**

Mr. Weston led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Oath of Office - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin**

Mr. Barber announced the new Big Cypress Basin Board member Dave Weston, Chief Operating Office of Naples Lumber and Supply, Inc. Mr. Weston was appointed by Governor Rick Scott for a term beginning on January 22, 2016 and ending on March 1, 2018 and succeeded Ms. Alice Carlson.

Ms. Koehler administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Weston.

**5. Employee Recognitions - 25 Year Service Anniversary: Susie Campbell, Technical Support Consultant, Information Technology**

Ms. Koehler presented the 25 year anniversary award to Susie Campbell.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	John Vaughn
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Marielle Kitchener, Vice Chair
<b>AYES:</b>	Barber, Kitchener, Farmer, Haskins, Vaughn, Weston

**7. Agenda Revisions - Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin Service Center**

There were no revisions to the agenda.

**8. Abstentions by Board Members from items on the Agenda**

There were no abstentions.

**9. Progress Report on Maintenance of Barron Canal (SR29) - David Wilkison, Growth Management Division Director, Collier County**

Mr. Wilkison, Growth Management Division Director, Collier County, provided an update on the progress of the Barron Canal ownership and maintenance agreement. He discussed events that had occurred since the last update in January, including a meeting held in February with representatives of the Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife and DOT to discuss long term maintenance of the canal. He also stated that he had received authorization from the Board of County Commissioners to perform a one-time canal clean up from the Sunniland weir north into Immokalee and obtain easements from property owners.

**Board Questions**

Mr. Vaughn asked if the size of the culverts underneath the bridge were adequate. Mr. Wilkison replied that if some crossings needed upgrades, the County would assist the property owners with those efforts, but he stressed that the focus at this moment was canal cleaning and debris disposal.

Mr. Farmer asked for clarification that easements would be obtained along SR29 from the Sunniland weir shown on the map presented to the town of Immokalee. Mr. Wilkison confirmed he had authorization from the Board of County Commissioners.



**10. Level of Service Project Update - Akin Owosina, Bureau Chief Hydrology & Hydraulics**

Mr. Owosina, Bureau Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics, provided an update on the Level of Service project contract. He gave a brief summary of the efforts to date and discussed planned project activities, such as development of the Basin Atlas, modification of the flood simulation model and LOS assessment for existing and future conditions. He also stated that the contract had been delayed due to some scope modifications that occurred after the initial assessment, but confirmed that the contract negotiations were now complete and the consultant had provided an 18-month project schedule with BCB staff leading this effort.

**Board Questions**

In response to Mr. Vaughn's question, Mr. Owosina replied that the District had to outsource the contract because it did not have adequate resources to meet the project deadlines due to staff reduction and project priorities.

Mr. Vaughn asked if the change in the LOS caused by sea level rise had been identified for the west coast. Mr. Owosina stated that some information was available but needed to be evaluated and incorporated in the study and would provide an update to the Board at a future date.

In response to Mr. Farmer's question, Mr. Owosina answered that the intent of the first part of the study was to determine the level of service of structures and canal reaches and if any underperforming areas were identified, the Board could provide direction on where to invest Basin funds.

In response to a question from Mr. Famer, Mr. Owosina replied that the District had been able to coordinate with Collier County and utilize their Atlas.

Mr. Barber asked if real data from the completed pump stations would be incorporated in the model, and Mr. Owosina replied that he would need to verify this information.

**11. Lake Trafford Water Quality Update - Joseph Schmidt, Senior Engineer, Everglades Policy & Coordination**

Mr. Schmidt, Senior Engineer, Everglades Policy & Coordination, provided an update on Lake Trafford water quality. After a summary of the background of Lake Trafford restoration project completed in 2010, he provided data up to 2015 and provided a more detailed analysis of the water quality improvements from the restoration project. He recommended to continue monitoring water quality, complete the watershed delineation study and develop and implement a work plan for the Lake Trafford Management Team.

## Board Questions

In response to Mr. Vaughn's question, Mr. Schmidt replied that hydrilla had presented a big challenge in the past and had been over treated, however the management team was in the process of identifying new methods to address this problem.

Mr. Farmer stated that he would like to explore the option of trading District land used to dispose of the dredge material, with land around the lake to help with water treatment and storage.

Mr. Barber pointed out that the Immokalee wastewater disposal site might be a source of nutrients and salt, and Mr. Schmidt stated that this site was already being investigated and that he had been working with County staff on the possibility of adding some monitoring stations on adjacent properties. Mr. Barber asked if the spoil area north of the lake identified by Mr. Farmer could be used for stormwater treatment, and Mr. Schmidt agreed that the area was designed to hold water and it could be worth exploring the possibility of swapping lands among other ideas.

## 12. Discussion of Local Government Alternative Water Supply (AWS) and StormWater Projects for FY2016-2017

Mr. Schmidt, Senior Engineer, Everglades Policy & Coordination, provided a summary of funding availability of \$1,855,230 for FY2016-2017 and the funding requests from local government agencies. He provided three separate funding options for Board consideration as follows:

Project	Title	Applicant	Eligible Cost	Funding Request		Option A <sup>1</sup>		Option B <sup>2</sup>	
1 (AWS)	Reclaimed Water System Expansion Ph 5	City of Naples	\$2,954,400	\$1,200,000	41%	\$709,056	24%	\$738,600	25%
2 (SM)	Naples Park Area Basin Infrastructure Optimization	Collier County	\$1,388,000	\$800,000	58%	\$333,120	24%	\$0	0%
3 (SM)	Haldeman Creek Weir Replacement	Collier County	\$2,000,000	\$500,000	25%	\$800,000	40%	\$800,000	40%
Subtotal				\$2,500,000		\$1,855,230		\$1,538,600	

## Board Questions

Mr. Farmer stated that he had the opportunity to discuss the field station current needs for maintenance and replacement of fleet equipment with Mr. Doherty before the Board meeting and had asked Mr. Doherty to review his fleet replacement list and identify any items that should be purchased immediately instead of deferring them to FY2016-2017 and FY2017-2018. Mr. Farmer continued by stating that Mr. Doherty identified additional fleet needs and determined that approximately \$300,000 would be needed. In light of this, Mr. Farmer expressed his preference for Option B, which would allow enough funds



to buy additional fleet that should have been replaced years ago to avoid high maintenance of vehicles that were due for replacement.

Upon request from Mr. Weston, Mr. Farmer clarified that the \$300,000 was the cost of replacing and not maintaining vehicles.

Mr. Farmer asked Mr. Doherty if he could clarify what type of vehicles needed to be replaced and Mr. Doherty replied that it was maintenance vehicles: specifically a dump truck and a flatbed truck.

Mr. Farmer made a motion to provide funding: City of Naples Reclaimed Water System Expansion Phase 5 in the not to exceed amount of \$738,600 or 25% of eligible expenditures, whichever is less; Collier County Naples Park Infrastructure Optimization be funded at 0 Dollars or 0%; and the Collier County Haldeman Creek Weir Replacement in the not to exceed amount of \$800,000 or 40% of eligible expenditures, whichever is less.

Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion, motion was approved unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	David Farmer
<b>SECONDER:</b>	John Vaughn
<b>AYES:</b>	Barber, Kitchener, Farmer, Haskins, Vaughn, Weston

**13. Big Cypress Basin Real Estate Update - Richard Bassell, Division Director, Real Estate**

Mr. Bassell, Division Director, Real Estate, provided a presentation on the process to surplus the field station. After a description of the building and its location he described in detail the District's property surplus process and the anticipated timeline.

**Board Questions**

Mr. Weston suggested utilizing internet advertising and a site sign.

Mr. Farmer asked if the property could be divided and sold separately. He also asked staff to explore and report on the possibility of a rental option instead of disposing of the property, which would allow for future expansion. Mr. Bassell replied that the District was not set up to operate as a landlord and due to potential liabilities and budget constraints, the best course of action was to liquidate the property and use the funds for projects with higher priority.

**14. Capital Projects Update - John Mitnik, Division Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction**

Mr. Mitnik, Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction, provided an update on the FY2015-2016 capital projects and recapped changes to the FY2016-2017 capital program. He explained that the budget increase from the FY2016-2017

preliminary budget was due to scope reevaluation for fall protection, for the addition of remote capabilities, for future design work and construction and operations. He concluded his presentations with an update on the field station relocation that was scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

### **Board Questions**

In response to Mr. Weston's question, Mr. Mitnik replied that the budget increase for the Fall Protection Phase 2 was for the construction of catwalks to provide better accessibility to the structures.

Responding to a question from Mr. Vaughn on why the catwalk design had not been included in the original design, Mr. Mitnik explained that the original scope had been generated after the initial inspection which identified immediate structure deficiencies. The scope was reevaluated and expanded by the project management section to include additional upgrades.

In response to a question from Mr. Haskins, Mr. Mitnik stated that although the catwalks could be constructed at a later date, significant savings could be obtained by completing all the upgrades to the structure at the same time. Mr. Mitnik also offered to provide more information on the catwalks.

Mr. Barber asked and obtained confirmation from Mr. Doherty that he had the manpower available to complete the proposed rip rap repairs.

### **15. General Public Comment**

Mr. Frank Craparo expressed concern about marine life protection and offered suggestions for keeping estuaries at the optimal salinity levels by modifying weir design to adjust minimum / maximum flows during wet and dry season. He submitted a letter on behalf of Ms. Corinne Bessee, who also was concerned about the health of the estuaries.

Mr. Jerry Kurtz, Collier County Surface Water and Environmental Planning Manager, thanked the Board for their funding support, and commended the Big Cypress Basin staff for their cooperation. He mentioned the County commitment in Immokalee and future plans to acquire some small pond sites to capture the runoff and treat the water before it goes into Lake Trafford.

Mr. Farmer left the meeting at 11:20 am.

### **16. Technical Reports**

A) Water Conditions Report - Mr. Nageon De Lestang, Principal Engineer, Big Cypress Basin, provided a summary of the rainfall data and hydrology conditions for the Big Cypress Basin. His presentation showed low to normal rainfall data for the month of April, however, actual conditions were still above average due to the January rain fall.

B) Field Station Activity Report - Mr. Chris Doherty, Big Cypress Basin Field Station Superintendent, provided the BCB Field Station operation and



management activities. He recapped current activities, such as moving into the new facility, and provided a workload update, fleet maintenance, and a list of upcoming projects with main focus on season readiness.

**17. Staff Reports**

- A) Basin Administrator Report - Ms. Lisa Koehler, Administrator, Big Cypress Basin, provided a summary of staff activities and upcoming events. She commended the City of Naples for their outstanding achievement award for the Lake Manor stormwater project, and the Field Station staff for their clean-up efforts of the Green Canal. Ms. Koehler also announced that a celebration for the new field station was tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of June 8th.

**18. Board Comment**

There were no Board comments.

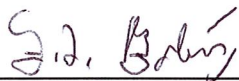
**19. Adjourn**

Mr. Barber announced the next Board meeting will be July 11 at 1:30 pm.

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Kitchener seconded the motion.

Mr. Barber adjourned the meeting at 11:36.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	John Vaughn
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Marielle Kitchener, Vice Chair
<b>AYES:</b>	Barber, Kitchener, Farmer, Haskins, Vaughn, Weston



Frederick T. Barber, III  
Big Cypress Basin Board Chairman  
South Florida Water Management District



Lisa Koehler  
Big Cypress Basin Administrator  
South Florida Water Management District